(e) There has been no increase in excise duty on steel. Further, exports are exempt from excise duty.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to NMFDC

3352. SHRI E. AHMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the distribution of these funds during the last financial year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the States in which the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations have been formed alongwith the composition;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to form such Corporations in other States;

(e) whether the last year's allocated fund has been fully utilised; and

(f) if so, the number of beneficiaries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Central Government has allocated Rs. 125 crores under the 8th Five Year Plan towards the equity Capital contribution of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation. Out of this an amount of Rs. 89 crores was released by 1995-96 and Rs. 36 crores is budgeted under the current financial year. The State Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala have contributed Rs. 1 crore each where as the Government of Uttar Pradesh has contributed Rs. 7 crores towards equity of the NMDFC.

(b) The state-wise disbursement of funds during 1995-96 is as follows:

States	Amount (in lakhs Rs.)
Andhra Pradesh	98.00
Haryana	93.45
Jammu & Kashmir	112.83
Karnataka	23.65
Madhya Pradesh	136.30
Punjab	91.70
Uttar Pradesh	93.18

(c) States of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal have set up the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations.

(d) The State Minorities Finance and Development Corporations in these States are wholly owned companies of their respective State Governments. Union Government has requested States/UTs to nominate the channelising agencies for implementation of the schemes of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) *States*	*Beneficiaries*
Andhra Pradesh	1650
Haryana	263
Jammu & Kashmir	230
Karnataka	210
Madhya Pradesh	763
Punjab	181
Uttar Pradesh	1500

[Translation]

Opening of base depot under PDS

3353. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to open base depot under the Public Distribution Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bermo Exchange in Bokaro

3354. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of Bermo Exchange in Bokaro District;

(b) whether only 500 lines of this exchange are functioning at present and as a result of which the number of applications registered for telephone connection from 1994 have increased considerably;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for their functioning at full capacity?